

Adult Social Services: Guardianship

Guardianship is a legal relationship in which someone (the Guardian) is authorized by the Clerk of Superior Court to be a substitute decision maker for an incompetent adult (the Ward). Incompetence is determined in a court proceeding and means an individual is unable to manage his own affairs, or is unable to make important decisions.

There are three types of guardian:

- Guardian of the person (makes decisions in most areas of the wards life, such as where they live, what type of care they receive)
- Guardian of the Estate (has authority to manage the wards income and property) and
- General Guardian (has the powers and duties of both guardian of the person, and guardian of the estate)

Anyone, including a family member, representative of a department of social services, mental health center, health department, or anyone else who knows the person, may file a written request (a petition) with the Clerk of Superior Court alleging that an adult should be declared incompetent and have a Guardian appointed. Every Clerk's office has forms that may be completed and filed for the petition. Currently, in cooperation with the Clerk and other Human Service Departments, the Adult Services Unit files petitions on individuals who are either indigent, or in need of protection, AND HAVE NO ONE WHO CAN OR WILL ACT IN THEIR BEHALF.

The Department of Social Services currently serves as Guardian for a number of Wards, who either have no family, or none available to serve in that capacity.

Guardianship Services include:

- Case management.
- Monthly assessments of ward's needs (by visiting with the ward, communicating with health providers, and other persons who are involved with the ward).
- Development of a service plan
- Quarterly assessments and yearly assessments.
- File necessary reports with the court/estate division.

Adult Social Services: In Home Aide Services

The goal of In Home Services is to provide needed supportive services to individuals which will enable them to remain in their home for as long as possible.

In Home Aide Services provides home management/and or personal care services to eligible persons. Adult Services currently has a waiting list for In Home Aide service.

In home Aide Services include:

- Social Worker assessment
- Development of a service plan, which identifies needed services.
- Arrangement of services to be provided by Aides employed by various community agencies
- Monitoring of service delivery

Adult Social Services: Intake

The Adult Services Unit has a Social Worker available Monday through Friday 8:00am-5:00pm, to answer phone calls or interview walk-in clients.

Our Intake Social Worker has information not only about DSS provided services but also services provided by other agencies and organizations.

Adult Services Intake Services include:

- Receives reports of abuse, neglect and or exploitation of the disabled.
- Receives complaints regarding Adult Care Homes
- Takes referrals for CAP, In Home, Outreach, Payee, etc
- Refers person to outside community agencies when appropriate
- Makes reports or directs people to law enforcement when appropriate
- Coordinates Medicaid Transportation Services
- Makes arrangements for unclaimed bodies

Adult Social Services: Placement Services

Activities necessary to assist aging or disabled individuals and their families or representatives in finding substitute homes or residential health care facilities suitable to their needs when they are unable to remain in their current living situation.

Placement/Adult Foster Care Services include:

- Initial screening/assessment
- Assisting client/representative in securing needed medical information
- Assisting with completion of necessary financial application
- Help locate and secure placement in suitable setting and level of care